



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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**Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Minutes
Thursday, January 7, 2016**

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
DuPage County Conference Room
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Committee Members

Present: Lynn Boerman (phone) – IDNR, Ed Collins – McHenry County Conservation District, Martha Dooley (phone) – Village of Schaumburg, Jackie Forbes – Kane County Division of Transportation, Stacy Meyers – Openlands, Wallace Van Buren – IAWA, Joe Schuessler – MWRD, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation, Patricia Werner – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Moira Zellner – University of Illinois-Chicago

Absent: Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Jon Grosshans – U.S. EPA, Pete Harmet – IDOT, Deb Stone – Cook County Department of Environmental Control

Others Present: Mike Klemens WCGL, Elaine Bottomley, WCGL

Staff Present: Joseph Szabo, Patrick Day, Margaret Jarr, Holly Hudson, Jason Navota, Kate Evasic, Kristin Ihnchak, Louise Yeung, Brian Daly, Nora Beck

1.0 Call to Order

Sean Wiedel called the meeting to order at approximately 9:35 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

CMAP staff described the Next Regional Plan Launch event, scheduled for Wednesday, February 24 from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm at CMAP and encouraged ENR committee members to attend.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – November 4, 2015

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 4 meeting was made by Stacy Meyers, seconded by Sean Weidel, and with all in favor, carried.

4.0 Next Regional Plan: Major Engagement and Voting Opportunities – Kristin Ihnchak, CMAP Staff

The next long-range plan is scheduled to be adopted in fall 2018. Staff has identified several opportunities in the interceding years for the Board and the MPO Policy Committee to formally vote to approve interim products. Referring to this [memo](#), Ihnchak

stepped through the main engagement opportunities as well the three votes that will be happening in October 2016, 2017, and 2018.

Committee members discussed how the ENR committee can provide the most value in the process and reaffirmed their support for next plan work on the committee's agenda. Suggestions were made to identify opportunities to have more cross-cutting discussions about the important issues being discussed for the next plan. For example, bringing in efforts on an array of topic areas (not the standard environmentally-focused ones) and holding joint meetings with other advisory groups to foster more collaboration and integration of ideas. CMAP staff agreed and will work to meet this idea.

5.0 Next Regional Plan: Place-Based Approach Alternatives – Kristin Ihnchak, CMAP Staff

One goal of the next plan's development is to provide actionable guidance for implementers via more detailed policy recommendations and greater geographic specificity for some policy areas. "Place-based approaches" are used by many peer MPOs to provide locally appropriate recommendations within the context of their regional plans. Using a powerpoint presentation and referring to this [memo](#), Ihnchak shared two place-based approach alternatives – typologies and layers – and discussed their potential utility for the next plan.

ENR committee members offered support for a place-based approach and made a number of comments and asked questions, which prompted discussion on the following points:

- Hybrids between typology and layer approaches.
- Energy layer within information about distribution centers.
- Broader layer devoted to water quality to handle the stormwater, climate change, and other factors to make land-based recommendations. Could include information on IBI for streams.
- Agricultural layer could build off of the prime and marginal soil information provided by the NRCS.
- Other potential data sources that could help define the layers:
 - Region-wide Oak layer is now available.
 - Pre-settlement vegetation to help connect restoration efforts
 - Roadless areas can help to identify larger potential preserves.
 - Flooding. Riverine (via 100-year) and urban flooding areas.
- Data coverage. Ideally, the layers are composed of data that is available region wide.

6.0 Next Regional Plan: Green Infrastructure Co-Benefits Strategy Paper – Louise Yeung, CMAP Staff

CMAP is developing a strategy paper to refine the green infrastructure recommendations included in GO TO 2040. In the next plan, CMAP aims to strengthen the connection of green infrastructure policies across scales of planning, from regional to community to site levels. Using a powerpoint presentation and this [memo](#), Yeung outlined a potential framework to refine green infrastructure policy in the next plan, consisting of four parts: protect ecological cores, encourage green infrastructure in parts, green hardscapes, and

account for co-benefits. The committee generally supported the four parts of the framework; discussion focused on these main points:

- Hubs and spokes pattern unique to resource / scale. Committee members discussed how the hub and spoke, or web, pattern is replicated at other scales and the size / connectivity of this pattern is not universal. For example, a comparison was made for habitat requirements between coyotes and turtles or more generally mammals and water.
- Web pattern also identifies the public – private contributions and responsibility and the decentralized nature of the system.
- Regional tradeoffs. Water and limitations of development.
- Mapping. Committee members discussed the potential/ease of mapping the different parts of the framework; mapping the ecological cores and parks (and other large open spaces like golf courses) can be done; but other components are harder.
- How do site scale BMPs support the larger network, suggestion was made to identify priority green hardscapes to connect larger areas.
- Balance of demands on our existing conservation open space, especially as it relates to stormwater. Suggestions were made to identify regional areas for stormwater detention in advance of development (using pre-settlement data, depression analysis), and buffering of existing open spaces to maintain ecological values.
- Discussion of identifying the irreplaceable resources within the core areas (such as Oaks and INAI lands).
- Discussion about how integrating GI into roadways alone will be a game changer.

7.0 LTA Zoning Projects: Environmental Strategies – Patrick Day, CMAP Staff

CMAP has been working with several communities to update and modernize their zoning ordinances. These projects present opportunities to incorporate strategies that can help reduce the environmental impact of new development, including techniques to help preserve land, improve water quality, and reduce stormwater runoff. Using a powerpoint presentation, Daly presented a sample of techniques that are being explored in projects that are currently underway in South Elgin, Berwyn, and Park Forest. Organized around central tenants in the Livable Communities chapter of GO TO 2040 plan, Daly discussed mixed-use, bulk requirements, signs and outdoor lighting, off street parking requirements and parking lot design, landscaping, walkability, GI in street standards, and open space and natural resource protection.

ENR committee members offered support for this work, made a number of comments, and asked questions, which prompted discussion on the following points:

- Support for the native plant requirements; may also consider invasive plant maximums.
- Flood area buyouts. Discussed the use of a credit system that would allow developers to buy out these areas as part of the open space requirements of the subdivision process.

- Public acceptance for these techniques. Daly discussed how CMAP conducts zoning projects after a recent comprehensive plan has been completed. The planning process allowed for a vetting of these techniques. Recognized that there can be planning fatigue and that some of the techniques are more aspirational but are steps in the process.
- Model ordinances. NIPC's model ordinances are recognized as good resources and ways to update those were discussed. Staff talked about the need to tailor this work based on the community context as well as existing policy – making it hard to integrate a model ordinance whole cloth.
- Discussion of uncertainty and the variability of performance with BMPs.
- Importance of maintaining overland low paths.
- Infill and redevelopment; and the incremental changes made. Staff discussed the balance of instilling these principles while not overburdening redevelopment and spurring greenfield development.
- Noise pollution and steps that could be taken outside of the building code.

8.0 Other Business.

No other business.

9.0 Next Meeting

The ENR Committee will be Thursday, February 4, 2016.

10.0 Adjournment